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# 3M Vehicle Prep for Success Guide

Considerations Before Installation

July 2023

# Considerations Before Film Installation

This guide is intended to provide installers with 3M's recommendations on how to inspect, prepare, and clean a vehicle prior to applying a car wrap film. Each section focuses on specific global techniques and best practices used to help installers achieve more successful installations. Follow all installation safety standards for your respective country. Installers should wear proper personal protection equipment (PPE) as defined by the facility and as recommended by the products used.

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## Health and Safety

This information is applicable to many of the procedures in this Bulletin. Please read and follow them.



**CAUTION:** When handling any chemical products, be sure to read the manufacturers' container labels and Safety Data Sheet (SDS) for important health, safety and environmental information. To obtain SDS sheets for 3M products go to [3M.com/SDS](https://www.3m.com/SDS), or by mail or in case of emergency, call 1-800-364-3577 or 1-651-737-6501.

To avoid exposure to potentially hazardous materials, which if not avoided can cause serious bodily harm, wear appropriate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) as recommended by the product manufacturer, or as deemed necessary based on the results of an exposure assessment. Such PPE may include impervious gloves (for example, butyl rubber gloves) and eye protection such as safety glasses or goggles.














When using any equipment, always follow the manufacturers' instructions for safe operation. Any activity performed for a long period of time in an awkward position or with a high amount of force is potentially a risk for causing musculoskeletal strain, pain or injury. When applying or removing graphics, follow these practices to improve comfort and avoid injury:


- Alternate your tasks during the application.
- Schedule regular breaks.
- Perform stretches or do exercises to improve circulation.
- Avoid awkward reaching.

## Operating Conditions

<b>Location</b>		Well-lit, clean, and dry indoor environment, away from any ventilation and entrances, and away from any equipment that may contaminate the vehicle surface.
<b>Temperature</b>		10°C to 38°C (50°F to 100.4°F) <i>For specific installation temperatures, reference the product bulletins for the graphics being used.</i>

## Materials and Tools






Detergent and water solution		Scotch-Brite® High Performance Cloth or lint-free cloth		3M™ Perfect-It™ Clay Bar	
Vehicle cleaning sponge		3M™ Hand Applicator PA1-G Gold Squeegee		Grounding cable	
Compressed air		Appropriate personal protection equipment	<b>PPE</b>	Tire covers	
Spray bottle		Preparatory solvent		Vacuum	
70% isopropyl alcohol (IPA) and 30% water mixture		3M™ Perfect-It™ Clean and Shine			



# **Vehicle Inspection and Drop Off**

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## Operating Steps 1 – 3

<h1>1</h1>		<h3>Vehicle Inspection</h3> <p>Inspect the vehicle with the customer to identify rust, paint quality issues, scratches, dents, and other damage that may affect film installation.</p> <p>A checklist may be helpful to reference during this inspection.</p>
<h1>2</h1>		<h3>Clean the Vehicle</h3> <p>Clean the entire vehicle surface with soap and warm water prior to bringing the vehicle inside.</p> <p> <b>Note:</b> Customers' cars should arrive clean and free from gross contaminants. Regardless, installers should <i>also</i> clean the vehicle themselves.</p> 
<h1>3</h1>		<h3>Bring the Vehicle Inside</h3> <p>Move the vehicle into an environmentally controlled workshop. Place it away from any air vents or entrances, and away from any equipment that may contaminate the vehicle surface.</p>

 **Always follow safety regulations.**  
See page 1








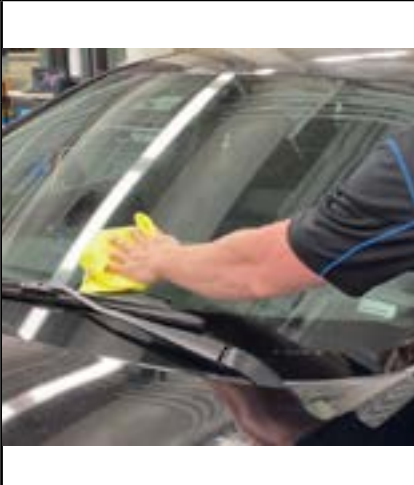

# **Vehicle Preparation and Cleaning**

1-4

5-7












Completed

## Operating Steps 1 – 4

<h1>1</h1>		<h3>Clean the Vehicle</h3> <p>Clean the entire vehicle, removing any gross debris such as leaves and sticks.</p>
<h1>2</h1>		<h3>Apply Compressed Air</h3> <p>Apply compressed air to remove moisture and dust from all confined or tight spaces on the vehicle, such as head lights and body panel lines. It is preferable to conduct this cleaning outside when possible to avoid further contaminating the shop.</p> 
<h1>3</h1>		<h3>Clean the Wheels</h3> <p>Clean each of the vehicle's wheels and wheel wells with clean, lint-free microfiber cloths and a mixture of 70% isopropyl alcohol and 30% water. Replace the cloths as they become dirty.</p> 
<h1>4</h1>		<h3>Clean the Vehicle Near Wrap Areas</h3> <p>Use clean lint-free microfiber cloths and a mixture of 70% isopropyl alcohol and 30% water to clean anywhere on the vehicle that is near the wrap area. This includes areas such as the windshield, wipers, the edges of the hood, trunk, doors, and door jambs. Additionally wrap a microfiber cloth with IPA around a squeegee to clean the gaps along molding and seals. Replace the cloths as they become dirty.</p> 




**Always follow safety regulations.**  
See page 1

<h1>5</h1>		<p style="text-align: right;"><b>PPE</b>  </p> <h3>Remove Difficult Contaminants</h3> <p>Remove difficult contaminants (such as tar, tree sap, waxes, and polishes) from the vehicle surface using a clean, lint-free microfiber cloth soaked in an appropriate solvent.</p> <p>Replace the cloths as they become dirty</p> <div style="background-color: #e0f2f1; padding: 5px; border: 1px solid #ccc;"> <p><b>ⓘ Important Note:</b> Review the Safety Data Sheet or product information for any chemical used, and wear appropriate personal protection equipment during use.</p> </div>
<h1>6</h1>		<p style="text-align: right;"><b>PPE</b>   </p> <h3>Further Particulate Removal</h3> <div style="background-color: #e0f2f1; padding: 5px; border: 1px solid #ccc;"> <p><b>ⓘ Important Note:</b> Read the product instructions for 3M™ Perfect-It™ Clean and Shine and the 3M™ Perfect-It™ Clay Bar prior to use.</p> </div> <p>A. Wet the vehicle with 3M™ Perfect-It™ Clean and Shine, <b>OR</b> a mixture of water and car soap.</p> <p>B. Scrub the vehicle surface with a piece of 3M™ Perfect-It™ Clay Bar to remove particulate matter from the vehicle's paint.</p>
<h1>7</h1>		<p style="text-align: right;"><b>PPE</b>   </p> <h3>Clean the Vehicle Again</h3> <p>Clean the vehicle's entire surface with clean, lint-free microfiber cloths sprayed with a mixture of 70% isopropyl alcohol and 30% water.</p> <p>Replace the cloths as they become dirty.</p>

 **Always follow safety regulations.**  
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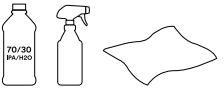


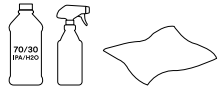




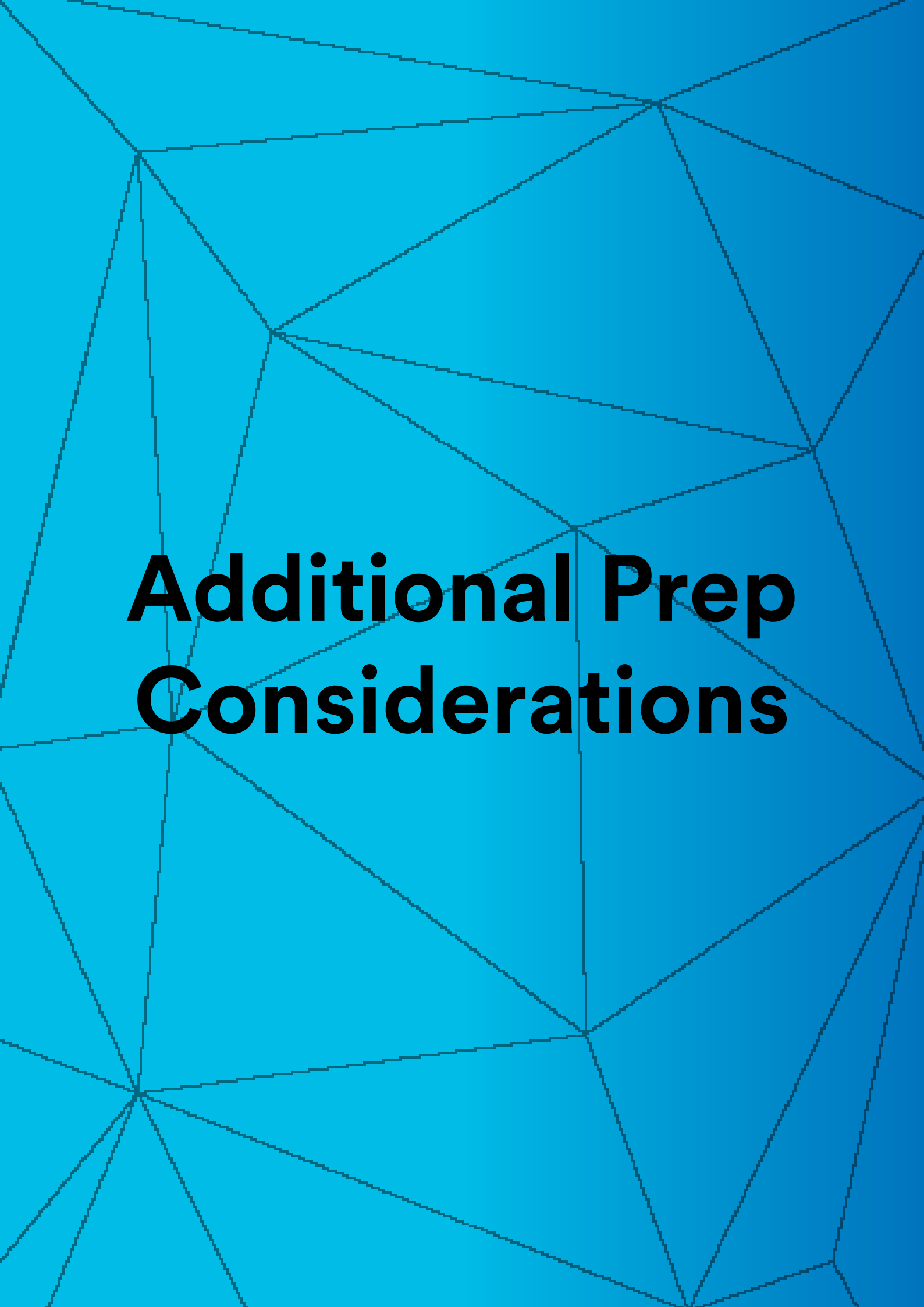
# **Installation Day Cleaning**

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## Operating Steps 1 – 4









<h1>1</h1>		<h3>Dedicated Vehicle Cleaning Day</h3> <p>3M recommends a dedicated day (typically the day before any film installation) for comprehensive inspection and cleaning of the vehicle, and to allow the vehicle surface to return to ambient temperatures. This allows for proper preparation and for the vehicle to fully dry from after the cleaning process.</p>
<h1>2</h1>		<p style="text-align: right;"><b>PPE</b> </p> <h3>Clean individual panels prior to film installation.</h3> <p>Clean an individual panel immediately prior to installing film on that panel. Clean the panel using clean, lint-free microfiber cloths sprayed with a mixture of 70% isopropyl alcohol and 30% water.</p> <p>Replace the cloths as they become dirty.</p>
<h1>3</h1>		<h3>Install film over the cleaned panel.</h3> <p>Immediately after cleaning a panel, install film over that panel. The less time there is between cleaning and film installation the smoother and cleaner the installation will go. See <a href="#">3M Instruction Bulletin 5.36</a> for detailed instructions on installing film onto automobiles, vans, and buses.</p>
<h1>4</h1>		<p style="text-align: right;"><b>PPE</b> </p> <h3>Repeat</h3> <p>Repeat the cleaning process on each subsequent vehicle panel where film will be installed, immediately prior to installing film on that panel.</p>

 **Always follow safety regulations.**  
See page 1



# **Additional Prep Considerations**

## Operating Steps 1 – 4

<p><b>1</b></p>		 <p><b>Ground the vehicle.</b></p> <p>Ground the vehicle to dissipate static electricity. This reduces the car's attraction of contaminants.</p>
<p><b>2</b></p>		 <p><b>Install tire covers.</b></p> <p>Install tire covers to further reduce contaminant transfer to exposed vehicle surfaces and film adhesives.</p>
<p><b>3</b></p>		 <p><b>Vacuum</b></p> <p>Vacuum the shop floor and the vehicle's interior to reduce dust transfer when opening and closing the vehicle's doors during film installation</p>
<p><b>4</b></p>		 <p><b>Wet the Floor</b></p> <p>Wet the shop floor with soapy water in order to keep dust on the floor during vehicle cleaning and film installation.</p> <p><b>ⓘ Important Note: Take care to avoid slipping on the wet floor.</b></p>

 **Always follow safety regulations.**  
See page 1

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## Avoid Sweeping

Sweeping the floor moves dust from the floor into the air. Do NOT sweep immediately prior to or during vehicle cleaning or film installation.



**Always follow safety regulations.**  
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# Important Documents

[Product Bulletin 2080](#)

[Cleaning Video](#)

[FAQ 2080 Installation](#)

[3M Instruction Bulletin 5.36](#)

For additional help with installation, please contact your local 3M Representative.

## Warranty Information

### Product Selection and Use

Many factors beyond 3M's control and uniquely within user's knowledge and control can affect the use and performance of a 3M product in a particular application. Customer is solely responsible for evaluating the product and determining whether it is appropriate and suitable for customer's application, including conducting a workplace hazard assessment, reviewing all applicable regulations and standards, and reviewing the product label and use instructions. Failure to properly evaluate, select, and use a 3M product in accordance with instructions or to meet all applicable safety regulations may result in injury, sickness, death, and/or harm to property.

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